

1 & 2 TIMOTHY

TO A YOUNG PASTOR

THE BACKGROUND OF TIMOTHY

- * The first of Paul's final series of letters—which along with 2 Timothy and Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles—1 Timothy offers practical and pastoral advice from the aging apostle Paul to a young pastor named Timothy working in the church at Ephesus.
- * Paul is writing to Timothy, a native of Lystra (in modern Turkey). Timothy's father was Greek, while his mother was a Jewish Christian (Ac 16:1).
- * From childhood he had been taught the OT (2Ti 1:5; 3:15).
- * Paul called him "my true son in the faith" (1:2), perhaps having led him to faith in Christ during his first visit to Lystra.
- * At the time of his second visit Paul invited Timothy to join him on his missionary travels, circumcising him so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability in working with the Jews (Ac 16:3).
- * Timothy helped Paul evangelize Macedonia and Achaia (Ac 17:14-15; 18:5) and was with him during much of his long preaching ministry at Ephesus (Ac 19:22).
- * He traveled with him from Ephesus to Macedonia, to Corinth (see Ac 20:3), back to Macedonia, and to Asia Minor (Ac 20:1-6).
- * He was with Paul during the apostle's first imprisonment (Php 1:1; Col 1:1; Phm 1).

THE BACKGROUND OF TIMOTHY

- * Paul's closeness to and admiration of Timothy are seen in Paul's naming him as the co-sender of six of his letters (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1, 2 Thessalonians and Philemon) and in his speaking highly of him to the Philippians (Php 2:19-22).
- * At the end of Paul's life he requested Timothy to join him at Rome (2Ti 4:9, 21).
- * According to Heb 13:23, Timothy himself was imprisoned and subsequently released—whether at Rome or elsewhere, we do not know.
- * The presence of Timothy would have met an important need for Paul, their friendship coming on the heels of Paul's split with his close friend and partner in missions, Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41).
- * Such faithful service helps us to appreciate why Paul would leave him in Ephesus (**1Ti 1:3**)

1 Timothy

* **CHAPTERS:** 6 | **VERSES:** 113

2 Timothy

* **CHAPTERS:** 4 | **VERSES:** 83

1 TIMOTHY

- * First Timothy presents the most explicit and complete instructions for church leadership and organization in the entire Bible.
- * This includes sections on appropriate conduct in worship gatherings, the qualifications of elders and deacons, and the proper order of church discipline.
- * Paul advised Timothy on these practical matters in a way that would have helped the young pastor to emphasize the purity that should characterize Christian leaders and the gatherings they oversee.
- * Timothy's youth no doubt served him well, allowing for the energy and vigor he needed to serve his people.
- * However, it also caused inevitable difficulties with older Christians who may not have taken quickly to the leadership of such a young man because of his lack of knowledge and experience in leadership.
- * It was important to Paul that Timothy set an example of consistent faith and a good conscience, remaining above reproach and exercising the spiritual gifts that God had given him ([1 Timothy 4:12-16](#)).

2 TIMOTHY

- * The second letter to Timothy offers a picture of Paul at the end of his ministry, just before his death.
- * In contrast to his first imprisonment, when he lived in a “rented house” (Ac 28:30), he now languished in a cold dungeon (see 4:13), chained like a common criminal (1:16; 2:9).
- * His friends even had a hard time finding out where he was being kept (1:17).
- * A significant number of people—some who had wronged him and others who had served faithfully alongside him (2 Timothy 4:9-21).
- * Several people have abandoned Paul while he has been in prison, and several others are away on assignments (1:15; 4:9-12).
- * Paul knew that his work was done and that his life was nearly at an end (4:6-8). So he writes this final message to Timothy.
- * In such a time, Paul’s memories of Timothy’s sincerity and devotion are especially touching (1:3-5).
- * Paul urges Timothy to stand firm and asks him to come for one final visit before Paul is executed.
- * Paul also asks Timothy to bring his books and parchments, so that he can keep studying and writing until the end.
- * Paul wanted Timothy to continue in those things he had learned, drawing on the rich heritage of faith that had been passed down to the young pastor, not just from Paul but also from his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5-6; 3:14-15).
- * The most striking feature of Paul’s encouragement comes when the aging apostle used a phrase that showed up prominently in his letter to Timothy four years prior.
- * In that earlier letter, Paul exhorted Timothy to “fight the good fight” (1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12).
- * But in this letter, Paul turned that phrase on himself, writing that he had “fought the good fight . . . finished the course . . . [and] kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

2 TIMOTHY

Paul's second letter to Timothy focuses on solemn charges to the younger pastor:

1. **Guard and fight for the gospel.**

- * Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the gospel, and Timothy is responsible for guarding it (2 Ti 1:12-13) and entrusting it to others (2 Ti 2:2).
- * The road ahead will be fraught with suffering (2 Ti 1:8; 2:3), but Paul encourages Timothy to be strong, and fight the good fight (2 Ti 1:7; 2:1).

2. **Pursue righteousness.**

- * There are a lot of people out there who will try to disrupt Timothy's work and lead people into ungodliness.
- * Timothy and the other believers are to accurately handle the word, avoid empty chatter, flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace (2 Ti 2:22).

3. **Continue in sound teaching.**

- * Apostasy is coming in the future, and Timothy must remember the Scriptures.

4. **Preach the word.**

- * Paul's last charge to Timothy is to preach the word.
- * Timothy is not only responsible for keeping church doctrine in line; he's also supposed to bring that teaching to the lost.

OVERVIEW OF 1 TIMOTHY

- **Greetings (1:1-2)**
- **Warning against False Teachers (1:3-11)**
 - The Nature of the Heresy (1:3-7)
 - The Purpose of the Law (1:8-11)
- **The Lord's Grace to Paul (1:12-17)**
- **The Purpose of Paul's Instructions to Timothy (1:18-20)**
- **Instructions concerning Church Administration (chs. 2-3)**
 - Public Worship (ch. 2)
 - Prayer in public worship (2:1-8)
 - Women in public worship (2:9-15)
 - Qualifications for Church Officers (3:1-13)
 - Overseers (3:1-7)
 - Deacons (3:8-13)
 - Purpose of These Instructions (3:14-16)
- **Instructions concerning False Teaching (ch. 4)**
 - False Teaching Described (4:1-5)
 - Methods of Dealing with It Explained (4:6-16)
- **Instructions concerning Different Groups in the Church (5:1-6:2)**
 - The Older and Younger (5:1-2)
 - Widows (5:3-16)
 - Elders (5:17-25)
 - Slaves (6:1-2)
- **Miscellaneous Matters (6:3-19)**
 - False Teachers (6:3-5)
 - Love of Money (6:6-10)
 - Charge to Timothy (6:11-16)
 - The Rich (6:17-19)
- **Concluding Appeal and Benediction (6:20-21)**

OVERVIEW OF 2 TIMOTHY

- **Introduction (1:1-4)**
- **Paul's Concern for Timothy (1:5-14)**
- **Paul's Situation (1:15-18)**
- **Special Instructions to Timothy (ch. 2)**
 - Call for Endurance (2:1-13)
 - Warning about Foolish Controversies (2:14-26)
- **Warning about the Last Days (ch. 3)**
 - Terrible Times (3:1-9)
 - Means of Combating Them (3:10-17)
- **Paul's Departing Remarks (4:1-8)**
 - Charge to Preach the Word (4:1-5)
 - Paul's Victorious Prospect (4:6-8)
- **Final Requests, Greetings and Benediction (4:9-22)**